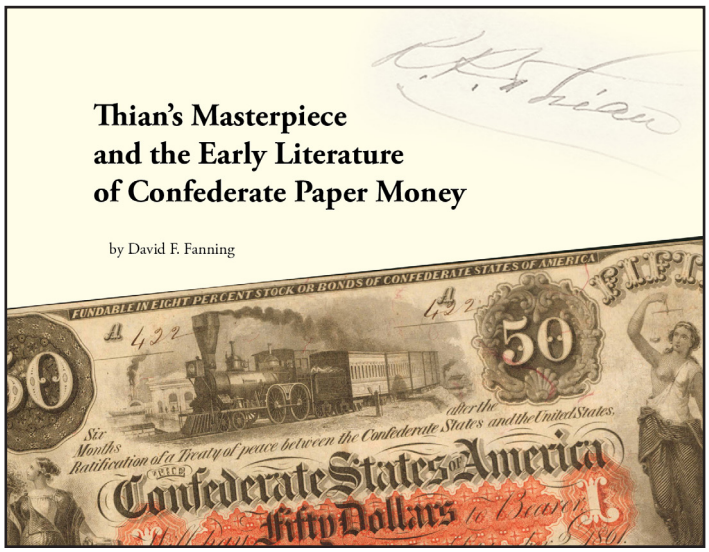
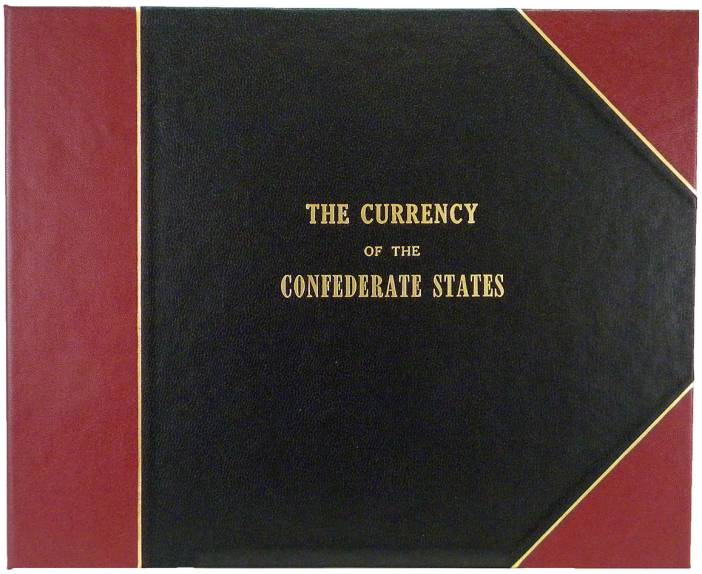
Thian's Masterpiece: A Leaf Book

Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers have announced the publication of *Thian's Masterpiece and the Early Literature of Confederate Paper Money*, by David F. Fanning. This publication traces the development of the study of the Treasury Notes issued by the Confederate States of America and outlines the literary history of the subject. Beginning with Thomas Addis Emmet's 1867 articles in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, Fanning discusses the various publications devoted to the collecting and study of Confederate paper money in the 19th century, culminating with the publication in the early 20th century of Raphael P. Thian's *The Currency of the Confederate States of America*.



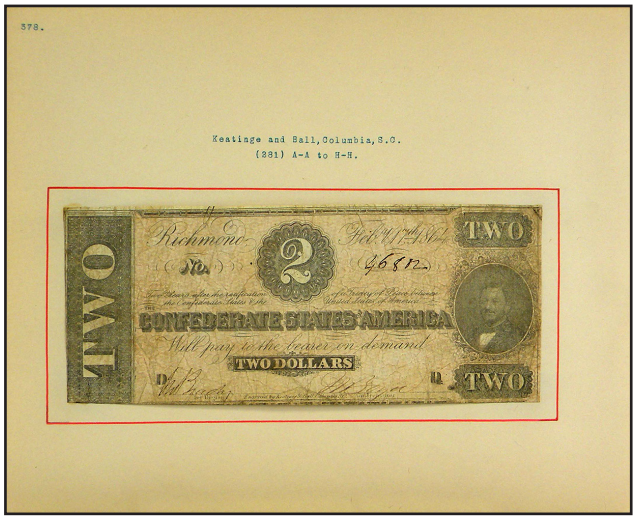


In addition to the regular edition of Fanning's study, a deluxe portfolio edition has been prepared. *The Currency of the Confederate States of America* is a very rare publication that combines Thian's most thorough treatment of the subject with an album of around 300 actual specimens of Confederate currency. Very few copies remain intact today, with many having been broken up over the years and the notes sold individually. When an incomplete copy became available, the idea was formed to make this publication better known to the collectors of today by creating a leaf book.

Twenty-four copies of Fanning's study have been bound in a custom-made portfolio, each of which also includes one original leaf from an incomplete copy of Thian's *The Currency of the Confederate States of America*. Some of these leaves include the original specimens of Confederate paper money that Thian mounted to them, while other leaves are text only.

Fanning's study can be purchased on its own for $25 plus $5 domestic postage at **numislit.com** or by emailing orders@numislit.com. Only 100 copies have been printed, each numbered and signed by the author, with 24 of them reserved for inclusion in the portfolios.

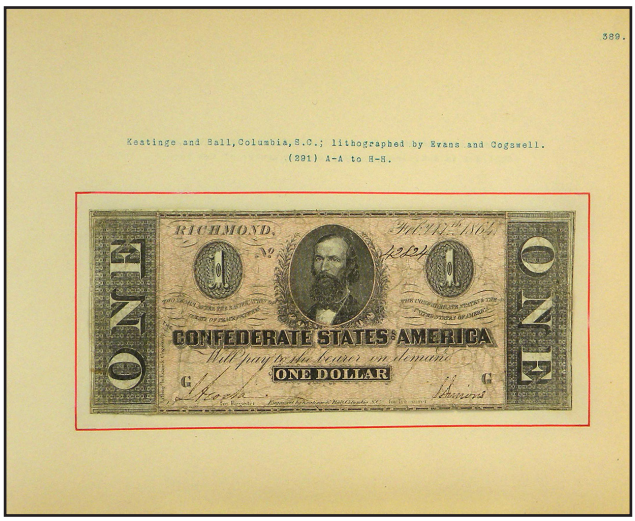
The available leaf book portfolios are priced as follows (numbers 1 and 2 were used for presentation purposes):



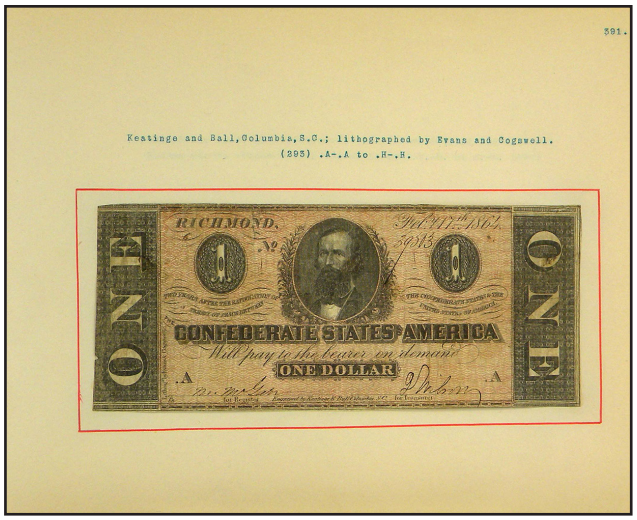
3. The leaf comprising pages 377–378, the second of which features a mounted Feb. 17, 1864 $2 note by Keatinge & Ball (T-70) described on the first page of the leaf. **$350**

4. The leaf comprising pages 381–382, both of which feature mounted examples of Feb. 17, 1864 $2 notes by Keatinge & Ball lithographed by Evans & Cogswell (T-70) with different serial letter positions. **$450**

5. The leaf comprising pages 383–384, the second of which features a mounted Feb. 17, 1864 $2 note by Keatinge & Ball lithographed by Evans & Cogswell (T-70) with a .B serial letter positioned closer to the center; the first page includes a hand-drawn box for the same note with the serial letter positioned farther from the center, but appears never to have had an example mounted within. **$350**

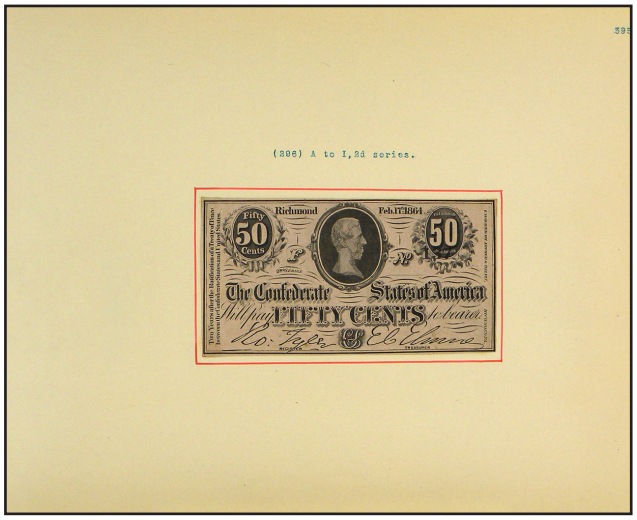


6. The leaf comprising pages 389–390, both of which feature mounted examples of Feb. 17, 1864 $1 notes by Keatinge & Ball lithographed by Evans & Cogswell (T-71) with different serial letter positions. **$450**



7. The leaf comprising pages 391–392, both of which feature mounted examples of Feb. 17, 1864 $1 notes by Keatinge & Ball lithographed by Evans & Cogswell (T-71) with serial letters preceded by a period located in different positions. **$450**

8. The leaf comprising pages 393–394, the second of which features a mounted Feb. 17, 1864 50 cent note engraved by Archer & Halpin (T-72), first series, described on the first page of the leaf. **$350**



9. The leaf comprising pages 395–396, the first of which features a mounted Feb. 17, 1864 50 cent note engraved by Archer & Halpin (T-72), second series, and the second of which is blank. **$350**

Leaves are well-preserved and have been carefully detached from the original binding and slightly trimmed at the gutter for presentation purposes. Condition of the mounted notes varies, but they were generally well-circulated before being mounted.

Also available are copies of the special edition featuring original text pages (no notes) from the album:

10. The original handwritten and signed inscription from Thian to Sydney E. Smith, reading: "Presented to Mr. Sydney E. Smith. Disbursing Clerk, War Department, with the kindest regards and best wishes of (signed) R.P. Thian / January 12, 1907." This is on the blank verso of the front free marbled endpaper. **$450**

11. The title page (cut at top margin with loss not affecting text) with blank verso. **$350**

12. First leaf of introduction, printed on both sides and giving drop-title, discussing authorizing acts. **$300**

13. Second leaf of introduction, printed on both sides and discussing authorizing acts and the paper used. **$250**

14. Third and final leaf of introduction, printed on both sides and discussing watermarks and chemicographic backs. **$250**

15. The leaf comprising pages 15–16, describing the Act of May 16, 1861 and the $100 note lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig. **$250**

16. The leaf comprising pages 33–34, describing the Act of August 19, 1861 and the $100 note lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig. **$250**

17. The leaf comprising pages 59–60, providing an unused space for Thian's Variety 37 A–A (Word "for" before "Treasurer," written) and discussing the $20 note lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig. **$250**

18. The leaf comprising pages 119–120, providing an unused space for Thian's Variety 84 W–W to Z–Z, 2nd Series (Word "of" before "the Confederate," etc., at right hand side of the note, omitted) and discussing the $10 note engraved by Keatinge & Ball. **$250**

19. The leaf comprising pages 159–160, describing the Act of April 17, 1862 and the $100 note lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig. **$250**

20. The leaf comprising pages 191–192, describing the Act of September 23, 1862 and the $100 note engraved by Keatinge & Ball. **$250**

21. The leaf comprising pages 235–236, providing an unused space for Thian's Variety 168 B.–B. to I.–I., 2nd Series (Keatinge & Ball, Columbia, SC) and discussing the $1 note engraved by Keatinge & Ball. **$250**

22. The leaf comprising pages 241–242, providing an unused space for Thian's Variety 173 B.–B. to I.–I., 2nd Series (Keatinge & Ball, Columbia, SC), with blank verso. **$200**

23. The leaf comprising pages 243–244, describing the Act of March 23, 1863 and the $100 note engraved by Keatinge & Ball. **$250**

24. The leaf comprising pages 319–320, describing the Act of February 17, 1864 and the $500 note engraved by Keatinge & Ball. **$250**

25. The leaf comprising pages 385–386, discussing the $1 note engraved by Keatinge & Ball and providing an unused space for Thian's Variety 288 A–A to H–H (Keatinge & Ball, Columbia, SC). **$250**

26. The leaf comprising pages 397–398, giving a section heading for Water-Marked Paper on the recto, with a blank verso. **$200**

Portfolio and regular editions of *Thian's Masterpiece: A Leaf Book* can be ordered through the Kolbe & Fanning website at **numislit.com**.